

**REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the reasons that follow. Claims 1-21 are now pending in this application.

**Interview Summary**

Applicant's representative wishes to thank the Examiner for conducting the telephone interview of October 30, 2009. In accordance with the request in the Interview Summary that the Applicant file a statement of substance of the interview, please be advised that the Interview Summary accurately summarizes the interview.

**Information Disclosure Statement**

Applicant acknowledges receipt of a signed and partially initialed copy of the PTO/SB/08 form provided with the Information Disclosure Statement of July 14, 2009. However, references A52-A54, A58, and A59 were crossed out on the PTO/SB/08 form with a note that there is no translation of these references and there is no explanation of relevance, per MPEP § 609.

Applicant respectfully submits that an explanation of relevance was provided in the Information Disclosure Statement. As noted on page 2 of the Information Disclosure Statement, references A52-A54, A58, and A59 were cited in co-pending Application No. 10/591,431 and the relevance of each of these documents can be found in Application No. 10/591,431. Applicant notes that Application No. 10/591,431 is being examined by the same Examiner as the Examiner for this application and that references A52-A54, A58, and A59 were cited by the Examiner in the Office Action of May 27, 2009 as relevant references. See page 10 of the Office Action of May 27, 2009 for Application No. 10/591,431 and form PTO-892 attached to the Office Action of May 27, 2009. Thus, Applicant submits that the relevance for each document has been provided by the Examiner in co-pending Application No. 10/591,431 and the requirement of a statement of relevance has been met.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Office provide a signed and fully initialed copy of the PTO/SB/08 form with the next Office correspondence.

**Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claims 1-8, 11-13, 15, 16, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,511,015 to Heikkilä *et al.* (hereafter “Heikkilä”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,174,228 to Smith, Jr. (hereafter “Smith”). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Heikkilä discloses an asymmetric blow suction module 12 mounted above a web 10, which includes a blow nozzle unit 14 having a first discharge suction unit 18 on a front side 16 and a second discharge suction unit 22 on a back side 20. See Heikkilä at col. 3, lines 50-56. The blow suction module 12 is located between two gas infra modules 24, 26 and the blow nozzle unit 14 has a bottom part 28 with two nozzles or nozzle gaps 30, 32. See Heikkilä at col. 3, lines 57-62, and Figure 1. The bottom part of air discharge units include bottom plates 40, 42 that are bent downwards into a V-shape and contain suction openings 38. See Heikkilä at col. 4, lines 19-22.

However, Heikkilä does not disclose a non-contact infrared drier installation for a passing web comprising, among other things, gas-heated infrared radiant elements arranged next to one another so as to form a unit, wherein said infrared drier installation comprises a recycling device and a device preventing suction of cold air between two adjacent rows of radiant elements in said unit, wherein the device preventing suction of cold air between two adjacent rows of radiant elements fills a space between the two adjacent rows of radiant elements in said unit such that a device preventing suction of cold air is located between each and every element in said unit, as recited in claim 1 and as noted on page 4 of the Office Action. Claims 2-8, 11-13, 15, and 16 depend from claim 1.

In particular, Heikkilä does not disclose a device preventing suction of cold air between two adjacent rows of radiant elements fills a space between the two adjacent rows of radiant elements in said unit such that a device preventing suction of cold air is located between each and every element in said unit, as recited in claim 1.

Smith discloses a paper drying system that includes drying rolls 10 heated with steam to dry a paper sheet 11 and arcuate radiators 12 spaced in relation to the drying rolls 10 and

the sheet 11. See Smith at col. 4, lines 49-73. Smith discloses that spaces 13 are provided between the radiators 12 so that air can enter through the spaces 13 between the radiators 12 via convection and a steam-air mixture can evacuate by convection through ducts 14. See Smith at col. 4, line 73, to col. 5, line 8.

The Office argues on pages 4-5 of the Office Action that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the device of Heikkilä by the teachings of Smith to provide a device preventing suction of cold air between two adjacent rows of radiant elements in said unit, wherein the device preventing suction of cold air between two adjacent rows of radiant elements fills a space between the two adjacent rows of radiant elements in said unit such that a device preventing suction of cold air is located between each and every element in said unit, as recited in claim 1. In particular, the Office argues on pages 4-5 of the Office Action that the space 13 of Smith serves as a device preventing suction of cold air between two adjacent rows of radiant elements in said unit, wherein the device preventing suction of cold air between two adjacent rows of radiant elements fills a space between the two adjacent rows of radiant elements in said unit such that a device preventing suction of cold air is located between each and every element in said unit, as recited in claim 1. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The space 13 of Smith is not a device preventing suction of cold air between two adjacent rows of radiant elements in said unit, wherein the device preventing suction of cold air between two adjacent rows of radiant elements fills a space between the two adjacent rows of radiant elements in said unit such that a device preventing suction of cold air is located between each and every element in said unit, as recited in claim 1. The space 13 is an open space or a gap between the radiators 12 of Smith and thus does not fill a space between two adjacent rows of radiant elements, as recited in claim 1. In fact, Smith teaches that the space 13 is open and does not fill the space between the radiators 12 so that air can enter through the spaces 13 between the radiators 12 via convection and a steam-air mixture can evacuate by convection through ducts 14. See Smith at col. 4, line 73, to col. 5, line 8. Thus, Smith actually teaches the opposite of filling a space between adjacent rows of radiant elements, as recited in claim 1, and Smith fails to remedy the deficiencies of Heikkilä.

For at least the reasons discussed above, the combination of Heikkilä and Smith does not render claims 1-8, 11-13, 15, and 16 to be unpatentable because the combination of Heikkilä and Smith does not disclose all of the features of claim 1. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 9, 10, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Heikkilä and Smith. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 9, 10, and 14 depend from claim 1. Heikkilä and Smith do not render claims 9, 10, and 14 to be unpatentable because Heikkilä and Smith do not disclose or suggest all of the features of claim 1. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Heikkilä and Smith in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,665,950 to Riepe *et al.* (hereafter “Riepe”). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Riepe fails to remedy the deficiencies of Heikkilä and Smith discussed above in regard to independent claim 1, from which claims 17-20 depend. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

### **Conclusion**

Applicant submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

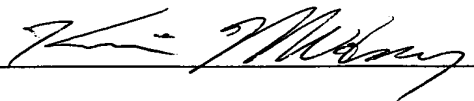
The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing or a credit card payment form being unsigned, providing incorrect information resulting in a rejected credit card transaction, or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith,

Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date **JAN 26 2010**

By 

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